

A FEW

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## INTERESTING REMARKS

ON

## BILIOUS DISORDERS,

PARTICULARLY THE

## JAUNDICE;

RECOMMENDING THE

## ANTI-BILIOUS POWDERS,

A CERTAIN AND

EXPERIENCED REMEDY.

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BY ROBERT PRIESTLEY, M. D.

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1797.



ANTI-BRITISH POWDERS

A CLOTHIAN AND

EXPERIMENTED REMEDY

BY ROBERT PRIESTLEY, M.D.

1792

PUBLISHED BY JAMES DODD,

TO THE RESPECTABLE INHABITANTS OF

L E E D S.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE favorable opportunity of expressing a fond attachment to the place of my birth, and a sincere esteem for its inhabitants, whose intimacy and friendship I have enjoyed during the exercise of my profession for more than thirty years, urges this address. I am also inclined to hope, that the public at large will receive with greater candor the proposal of a new and important remedy, when it appears under the sanction of those who have experienced its efficacy or witnessed its effects, and who are best acquainted with my character and conduct.

At an early period of my medical practice, my attention was called to a variety of bilious cases, in the treatment of which I pursued for some time the usual and most approved methods. Their frequent inefficacy naturally led me to the trial of others, equally safe, and in my opinion, better adapted to the symptoms and causes of each complaint. I was much encouraged by the result of the first attempts. A few instances of success did not, however, entirely remove my timidity in deviating from the tract of so many great men who had gone before me: but finding that the old path commonly led to the grave, and that the farther I pursued my own discoveries, the stronger proofs I had of their salutary tendency, I have since proceeded with perfect security and confidence. It is certainly no small presumption in favor of

a medicine, that, in the course of repeated experiments for thirty-years, it has never once failed of affording relief, and seldom of establishing a permanent cure. The persons, whom I am now addressing, can bear the most honorable testimony to the truth of this assertion.

As to the stile of the following remarks, it would have been easy for me to give it a higher polish, and to make a brilliant display of scientific skill. But I considered that I was writing for the information of the great body of society—not to court the applause of medical readers only. I therefore preferred clearness and simplicity to artificial ornaments, and felt a stronger desire to be useful, than to be distinguished for profound learning or elegance of diction.

In whatever manner the rest of the world may receive the offer of my services, I shall always remember with pride and gratitude the friendship and encouragement of the inhabitants of LEEDS; happy, thus publicly to make acknowledgment for former kindnesses, and to return sincere thanks for recent obligations.

I AM,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WITH THE HIGHEST RESPECT,

YOUR MOST OBLIGED,

AND DEVOTED HUMBLE SERVANT,

**ROBERT PRIESTLEY.**

LEEDS,

APRIL 21st, 1797.

A FEW  
INTERESTING REMARKS  
ON THE  
NATURE, CAUSES, SYMPTOMS  
AND CURE OF  
BILIOUS DISORDERS  
AND PARTICULARLY OF THE  
JAUNDICE,

SO JUSTLY DESCRIBED BY THE POET, AS

"The Yellow Fiend"

"Ting'd with her own accumulated Gall."

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IT has been somewhere observed, that "ignorance and superstition have attributed extraordinary Medical virtues to almost every production of nature;" and, indeed a great part of the history of medicine has been little more than a history of opinions, which prevailed perhaps for a few years, and then fell into contempt and oblivion. But where the nature and causes of any disease are clearly investigated, and sufficiently

ciently understood, the rational mode of treatment will be obvious and simple, and every curable disorder will be discovered to have its appropriate remedy.

That popular and interesting publication the Spectator has the following judicious remark : " Physic, for the most part is nothing else but the substitute of exercise or temperance." This is self-evident : Exercise whets the appetite, and temperance prevents the abuse of it.

Could mankind but attend to these great preservers of health which reason and experience so strongly recommend, it need not be doubted that the most salutary effects would be produced, and the use of medicaments be much more restricted than at present.

Since, however, a necessity often arises for the use of such medicinal assistance, as may tend to relieve the afflicted, from whatever source their complaints may proceed, surely it is the duty of such as by professional education, and long continued

continued habits of practice, are the best qualified, and have it in their power effectually to alleviate and remove the distresses of those who unhappily labour under the severe pressure of disease, to promulgate their discoveries in the healing arts.

Impelled, therefore, by the sense of this duty, and by motives of benevolence, more than by any selfish views of his own personal interest, which he regards only so far as is fair and honorable, the inventor and Proprietor of a Medicine, as simple in its composition, as it is expeditious in effecting that most necessary disideratum recovery from a disorder often fatal, or at least relief from some of its most distressing symptoms, begs to offer his service to public attention.

It is well known, that the structure of the liver is peculiarly tender and susceptible, and though so liable to disorder, from that very delicacy of its texture, it is much to be lamented, that few complaints have been less investigated, understood, or

benefits

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successfully treated, than those of this gland, so important in the animal economy. The various theories respecting the formation of this organ, and its several functions, have given rise to as many different opinions on the nature of the disorders to which it is subject: whence have sprung the many *projected remedies* introduced upon the prevalence of each hypothesis; and which, unsupported by success, have each, in turn, given way to modes of practice not better founded than the preceding. Thus has the *Faundice* too often fatally baffled the skill of the most plausible theorists.

The liver is destined to secrete, or separate, the bile from the blood; the use of which in digestion is of the highest importance to the animal economy. It is the largest gland in the human body; and the secretion being performed from venal blood, by the capilary ramifications of the pori biliarii, the circulation is slow. Hence obstructions in this organ hardly fail to be the general consequence of inactivity and bodily weakness. Sedentary persons, in particular, are frequently afflicted

afflicted with schirrous livers. Where the necessary functions of the liver are not duly performed, in consequence of its vitiated state, the health must soon be impaired; and not only indigestion and loss of appetite ensue, but an obstinate Jaundice and atrophy will, in the end, prove inevitably fatal.

Various are the causes which occasion obstructions in the liver; the most usual is that which arises from the stoppage of a gall-stone in the hepatic, or more frequently, in the common duct; morbid concretions being known to form more readily in the gall-bladder, when the bile is collected, than in the hepatic duct, through the branches of which it circulates.

*A stricture of the common duct* sometimes produces obstruction, such stricture is often improperly attributed to spasmodic affection, which perhaps can only take place in that part which passes through the coats of the duodenum or smaller intestines, and which may be constricted by the muscular fibres of those intestines. The

discharge of the bile may also be obstructed by the pancreas, (which is sometimes schirrous) pressing the common duct : at least, its vicinity renders such an effect highly probable. Another cause may be an actual schirrous state of the liver itself, producing an accumulation of the bile within its own substance.

*The Yellow Fever* in the West Indies furnishes, however, an instance, that the Jaundice may exist, though the *bilious canals* are open and free. This disease being accompanied with a diffusion of bile through the whole mass of blood, produces JAUNDICE, with a redundancy of bile in the stomach and bowels, which discharges itself by vomiting and purging. It is therefore evident that a redundant secretion is, in this case, the cause of Jaundice.

This dreadful complaint, at all times extremely dangerous in warm climates, but of late peculiarly fatal in the West Indies, may, however, be happily prevented, by the use of the medicine at present recommended.

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An immoderate use of spirituous liquors frequently occasions the *Jaundice*, as they have a direct tendency to produce diseases of the liver, and evidently weaken the tone of the stomach.

### SYMPTOMS OF THE JAUNDICE.

THE symptoms of this complaint are, indolence, lassitude, anxiety, sickness, oppression of the breast, difficult respiration, pain about the pit of the stomach, a dry skin with itching, costiveness, hard white or greyish stools, yellow and high-coloured urine, tinging the linen yellow, with a bitterish taste in the mouth. A *Jaundice* arising from an obstruction in the gall-bladder, is not so very dangerous as that proceeding from a schirrous liver.

It may not be improper here to offer a few remarks upon the nature of the bile. To the eye it appears an homogeneous fluid, of a greenish colour, inclining to yellow when diluted: thus, upon a dilution by the excess of air to excess of water with

with the aqueous particles of the blood, it gives the yellow tinge of Jaundice.

Chemical experiments have unfolded the assemblage of properties naturally inherent in the bile. From these it may be inferred, that this liquor is endowed with a saponaceous quality, combined with a mucilaginous substance, whence its tenacity, a resinous substance containing the colouring principle, and a mild mineral alkali.

The most obvious use of the bile is, unquestionably, that of stimulating the intestines, and promoting both digestion, and the natural discharge by stool. For, when the bile is diverted from the stomach and bowels, as in the Jaundice evidently appears, costiveness takes place. The torpor which seizes the intestines, thus deprived of their natural stimulus, is diffused by sympathy through every part of the system and both languor and lassitude necessarily ensue.—It is well known, that an increased secretion of bile is prevalent in all hot climates, producing diseases, by the excess of its quantity in  
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the first passages : Thrown back into stomach, sickness, indigestion, loss of appetite, furr upon the tongue, attended with thirst, and an unusual lassitude are the consequence ; or falling upon the bowels probably with increased acrimony, a painful diarrhoea is excited, the peristaltic motion of the intestines becomes irregular, and their tone is considerably, if not irrecoverably impaired.—This redundancy of the bile is, by the action of the absorbent vessels, generally introduced into the whole system : the *Cutis* is tinged, the urine similarly affected, the pulse raised, thirst excited, the animal heat increased, and a considerable degree of fever supervening, the body becomes emaciated, and every external symptom of ill-health is apparent in the patient.

It must be observed that in warm climates the most healthy constitutions are subject to some or all of these distressing symptoms, even without any degree of intemperance or irregularity ; nor are they to be altogether avoided by any precaution with respect to diet.

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The natives of warm climates suffer less inconvenience from the increased secretion of bile, occasioned by the heat of the atmosphere than Europeans, whose constitutions, unhabituated to such climates, are thence particularly exposed to diseases of the liver and other organs of digestion. The alcalescent nature of the bile is probably more exalted in warm climates, and it is more saturated with resinous particles: hence its emetic and purgative qualities become more active; and even if the secretion were not more copious, its increased acrimony would produce more severe effects in the first passages. In such cases, provided the viscera remain sound, a sea voyage, and change of climate to a cooler temperature, produce the most salutary effects, gradually reducing the increased secretion and activity of the bile; the stomach and bowels at the same time recovering their tone and functions.

That the bile is extremely putrescent has been the generally received opinion; but the contrary appears to be the case.

Repeated

Repeated experiments have satisfactorily proved that the bile absolutely resists putrefaction ; that, mixed with other animal substances, it preserves them long sweet, and retards their natural tendency to a putrid state. It seems, therefore, an admirable provision of nature against the putrid fermentation, incidental to warm climates, that the bile be more copious and active, thereby operating upon the system, more effectually, as a powerful Antisепtic, and though assuredly, very many great inconveniences result from an excess of bile, a decrease of its natural quantity, or activity, would be attended with more dangerous and lasting disorders ; for, it is more easy to carry off the excess, than to supply its deficiency ; or even to abate its acrimony, than to increase its activity.

It generally happens, that the appetite and digestion of Europeans are, more or less, impaired by a long residence in tropical climates ; and though these emigrants seldom fail to receive much benefit by a sea voyage, and a gradual return to their native air ; yet the assistance of medicine will be highly

highly conducive towards rectifying the tendency to excessive or morbid secretion, and finally to restore the habit to its wonted strength and uniformity of action.

### C U R E.

WE have, hitherto, only enumerated the different degrees and symptoms of disease, arising from a vitiated, redundant, or obstructed bile. We now proceed to exhibit a more pleasing and animating prospect, which is that of the removal of the morbid effects, and the complete restoration of health.

Preparatory to this, it must be observed, that temperance, and a strict attention to the rules of nature, are indispensable; for otherwise medicine, with all its acknowledged efficacy, can be of no avail.

When the disease is occasioned by a sedentary life, joined to a hypochondriacal or melancholy disposition, which too often is found to be the case, the patient should take as much exercise as can be used without fatigue, on horseback, or in a carriage,

carriage, walking, &c. &c.—Amusements are also expedient to cheer the spirits and quicken the languid circulation.

Many are the remedies which have been proposed for the cure of bilious disorders. Among these mercury has been, in some cases, strongly recommended, and in a few, perhaps, on good foundation. But, experience shews, that every medicinal resource has hitherto proved, if not universally unsuccessful, at least extremely uncertain with respect to the result of its operation. Very active medicines in particular, are seldom given with advantage in these disorders; strong emetics are found to encrease the secretion of bile, and drastic purges weaken the patient, without removing the complaint.

During the experience of thirty-years, the safe and effectual remedy which this tract makes known and recommends, has not failed in any single instance, to accomplish with certainty, a cure. And, to satisfy the world, that the Proprietor is not actuated by any selfish or silleral motive, nor entertains any

*sinister* view in proclaiming to the world the virtues and properties of this remedy, he offers to submit a trial of it to any gentleman of the faculty who will please to apply; and to those patients who are *really* poor, he extends the use of it in a manner inconsistent with the sordid views of emoluments.

He flatters himself, however, that the rich, the benevolent, and indeed all such as can afford to pay will give him due encouragement for this offer of relieving the human frame from some of the most dreadful maladies to which it is incident.

This Medicine is a Powder, consisting entirely of vegetable ingredients; and though endowed with powerful qualities, is perfectly easy in its operation. Its efficacy will be found in strengthening the stomach, promoting digestion, exciting the languid circulation, exhilarating the spirits, and invigorating the whole system.

Encouraged by the constant success of the Medicine, in his extensive private practice,

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the Proprietor now commits his little bark to the imperious tide of public opinion ; not entertaining, however, the vain expectation, that his disinterested motives and strict adherence to truth will operate to insure him general approbation, the desire of which is laudable in every medical candidate, though it may be the lot of very few to deserve it ; but he is convinced, that whoever may be induced to make trial of this invention, will receive important relief, if not a radical cure, without the possibility of the smallest injury to the constitution.

### DIRECTIONS.

IN all biliary obstructions it is very proper to observe, that the body should be kept constantly open ; and for accomplishing this, soluble tartar, magnesia, wheys, butter-milk, ripe fruits *before* dinner, roasted apples the first thing in the morning, fasting three hours after eating them, are extremely proper. Should these, however, fail of producing the desired effect, either the following decoction, or pills may be taken.

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**THE DECOCTION.**

**TAKE** of fresh roots and leaves of dandelion sliced small, three ounces ; of dried Zante currants, one ounce ; let the dandelion and currants be well washed ; of senna leaves, half an ounce ; boil these ingredients in three pints of water, till reduced to two ; strain off the decoction into a bottle for use ; add to every quart three ounces of the best brandy. A tea-cupful of this gentle opening medicine may be taken every night and morning, and may be repeated more frequently if necessary.

**THE OPENING PILLS.**

**TAKE** of Castile soap, two drams ; of soccotrine aloes, one dram and half ; of vitriolated tartar, and rhubarb each one dram ; of the best Cayenne-pepper, half a dram ; of oil of juniper, forty drops ; let the rhubarb, aloes, tartar, and Cayenne-pepper be in fine powder.—The powders and the soap should be beat well together ;

then

then add the essential oil; and with the mucilage of gum arabic, a sufficient quantity, make them into pills. Half a dram of the mass will make eight pills of a moderate size.

Four, five, or six of these pills will generally prove a sufficient purge. For keeping the body gently open, one or two may be taken night and morning with good effect, as occasion requires.

To assist the operation of the powders, such kinds of exercise as clear the spirits and promote circulation, and such diet as is nutritive in its quality, should be resorted to.

When any foulness of the stomach is indicated by retching, sick head-ach, or other symptoms, it will be advisable to give a gentle emetic, consisting of from fifteen to thirty grains of ipeacoanha, the evening preceding the first administration of the powder. And it is necessary that a distinction should be attended to for children,

children, both with respect to the emetic, when necessary, and the Powders, according to their age and constitution.

The POWDER itself must be taken upon an empty stomach, having been previously mixed the night before with the pulp of a roasted apple while hot; nor must any kind of sustenance be taken, upon any consideration, for six hours following; when a little light food and moderate exercise may be allowed. Roasted apples are the most proper vehicle in which the Powder can be taken; but where these are absolutely not to be obtained, currant jellies, raspberry jams, and preserves of a similar nature, will be the best substitute.

Patients of delicate constitutions should only take half a Powder at a time.

The Powder having been taken four mornings successively, an intermission of three mornings may take place; and so on till a cure is effected.

PLAIN

**PLAIN AND IMPORTANT FACTS;**  
**Addressed to PERSONS afflicted with**  
**BILIOUS DISEASES of every Kind,**  
**or COMPLAINTS in the BOWELS,**  
**JAUNDICE, YELLOW FEVER,**  
**SALLOW HUE of the EYES and**  
**SKIN, GALL-STONES in the GALL-**  
**BLADDER, and all other Disorders**  
**arising from a VITIATED STATE of the**  
**LIVER, and from an IMPERFECT**  
**SECRETION, or REDUNDANCY of**  
**BILE.**

**B**OLD claims to extraordinary cures are so often the effects of imposition, or of arrogance, that the regular practitioner feels some awkwardness in recommending to the notice of the world any uncommon discovery he may have made during the exercise of his profession. Motives of false delicacy, however, should not make him suppress what must be of advantage to society, when well confirmed by repeated trials.

Dr.

Dr. PRIESTLEY, of Leeds, is induced, by so just a consideration, thus publicly to assure persons afflicted with any of the above complaints, that the remedy which he now offers, has *never once failed*, in the course of *thirty-years* extensive practice, to establish a permanent cure, or to afford important relief, in cases the most delicate and the most alarming. For the truth of this assertion he appeals, with heart-felt confidence, to the respectable inhabitants of the town where he so long resided, who experienced or witnessed the astonishing effects of his medicine, and who can bear the most satisfactory testimony to his conduct and success.

The medicine is *entirely composed* of vegetable ingredients; it is pleasant to the taste, grateful to the stomach, and almost imperceptible in its mode of operation. — Its softening, healing, and dissolving powers will produce an easy removal of all *calculi* in the *hepatic* and *common ducts*, as well as *gall-stones* in the *gall-bladder*. It will be found of no less importance in strengthening

strengthening the stomach, promoting digestion, exciting the languid circulation, exhilarating the spirits, invigorating the whole system, and, in a word, insuring the return of health, with all its desirable symptoms.

It may, therefore, be reasonably presumed, that the unhappy sufferers from the severe complaints which indicate a diseased state of the liver, whether arising from melancholy, intense application to business, a sedentary life, the immoderate use of spirituous liquors, excessive drinking, or any other cause, will not hesitate to procure, a REMEDY of inestimable value, adapted to their particular relief, and sanctioned by proofs which leave no doubt of its efficacy.

A sallow hue in the eyes and skin, as well as a deeper tint of yellowness, and the latent particles of disease that are caused by an imperfect secretion or redundancy of bile, soon yield to the happy influence of this medicine, which at once gives vigour to the frame, and healthiness to the complexion.

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As this POWDER retains its salutary virtues in every extremity of heat and cold, it will be of the utmost service to those Europeans who occasionally visit, or reside in, warm climates. Captains of ships in particular, and traders to the East and West Indies, to Africa, and all the regions under the torrid zone, might be looked upon as the willing victims of disease, if they neglected so effectual a preservative.

Any farther arguments in favor of the proposed medicine would be an insult on the plain understanding of every man who has a just sense of the value of health, and is capable of distinguishing between the *tricks of imposture*, and the *force of indisputable evidence*.

The POWDERS are sold Wholesale, Retail, and for Exportation, only by Mr. PUGH, at the WAREHOUSE, No. 39, Brook-Street, Holborn; Retail and for Exportation by Messrs. RICHARDSONS, Booksellers, Royal-Exchange:—The following

lowing Retail Dealers are likewise appointed; Mr. OWEN, Bookseller, opposite *Bond-Street, Piccadilly*; Mr. HAMILTON, Music and Bookseller, No. 221, near the *Hay-Market, Piccadilly*; and Messrs. WILMOT, Stationers, No. 69, *Borough High-Street*; and by no other Persons in LONDON.

They are also sold by every principal Printer and Bookseller in Great Britain and Ireland.

The PACKET will consist of Twelve Powders, Price ONE GUINEA.

Proper Allowance to Trading Companies, Captains of Ships, and other Persons purchasing a Quantity for Exportation.

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is now open to students in the  
University of London.

